

# Natural Yard Care

Nature wastes nothing. In natural landscapes, soil life recycles dead plants into food for new plant growth. Plants are adapted to the water, sun, and soil available in their site. And the wide variety of plants, soil organisms, insects, and animals keeps most pests and diseases in check.

By working with nature in your yard, you can have a great looking landscape that's easier to care for and healthier for families, pets, wildlife, and our great Washington environment.

Make your piece of the planet a healthier place to live. Save money and beautify your yard.

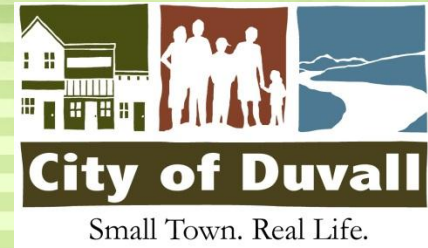
How? It's easy... Start with these 5 steps:

1. Build healthy soil- add compost and nutrients.
2. Plant right for your site - choose drought-tolerant plants.
3. Practice smart watering - make every drop count.
4. Think twice before using pesticides - go natural.
5. Practice natural lawn care- mulching is cheap and easy.



# Natural Yard Care cont.

## SPRING



### Flower and Vegetable Gardens

- Prepare new planting beds and gardens.
- Pull weeds when they first start growing, while soil is moist and roots are short, before they go to seed.
- Buy plants that resist disease and use less water.

### Tree and Shrub Beds

- Prepare new tree and shrub beds by mixing compost into the entire bed (not just planting holes). Or plant trees in native soil and mulch well.

### Lawns

- Start mowing, about 2 inches high for most lawns, or 1 inch for bentgrass lawns. "Grasscycle" – leave the clippings for free fertilizer.

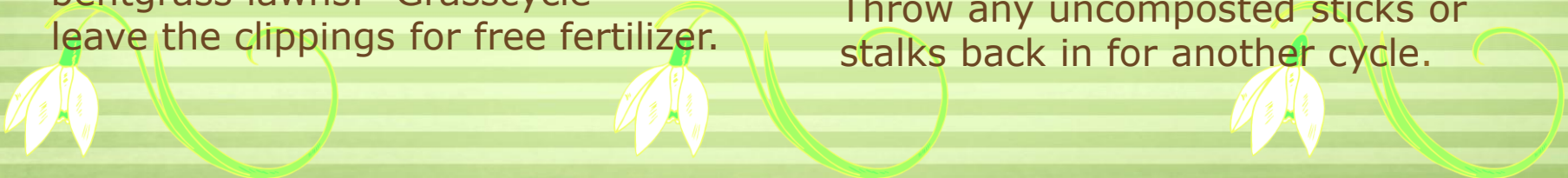
- For lawns in poor condition: aerate, overseed, and top-dress with ½ inch of compost.
- Fertilize lawns if needed in May with "natural organic" or "slow release" fertilizer.

### Watering

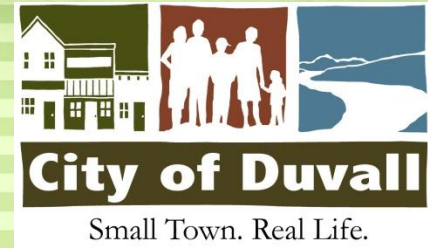
- Prepare sprinkler systems by testing, adjusting, and repairing leaks.
- Lay out soaker hoses in beds and cover with mulch.
- Check soil moisture at plant roots before watering – don't water until they need it.

### Composting

- Harvest compost from your bin. Throw any uncomposted sticks or stalks back in for another cycle.



# Natural Yard Care cont.



## Want to Know More:

Natural Yard Care information, in English and Spanish (Department of Ecology):

[www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/compost.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/compost.html)

Washington State University Master Gardener Information:

206.296.3440,

<http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/gardening.html>

Integrated Pest Management:

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/upest](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/upest) or

<http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense>

Native plant information:

<http://gardening.wsu/deu/nwnative>

City of Duvall:

<http://www.duvallwa.gov/departments/publicworks/npdes.html>

